

proper and provides for their subsequent care for all service-connected injuries, visible and invisible.”

Given his previous interest in the issue, I hope President Obama will make H.R. 1701 a priority for his administration.

I am very pleased to have Congressman GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi as lead cosponsor of the bill, as well as Congressman BILL PASCRELL and TODD PLATTS, both cochairmen of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. I hope that many of my colleagues in the House will join us as cosponsors of this important legislation for our Nation's military heroes.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform; I would like to ask God to please bless the families of our men and women of uniform; and, God, please bless the families who have given a child dying in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I close by asking God to continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DURBAN II HATE-FEST IN GENEVA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week's Durban II hate-fest in Geneva reminded us once again of the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel bias that pervades the United Nations, and reinforced why the United States and several other responsible nations were right to stay away.

Given what amounted to a keynote speech, Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad reminded us of his regime's goals when he savagely attacked the U.S. and Israel and called for radical political and economic upheaval on his terms.

He added, “World Zionism personifies racism” and said that Israel is a “totally racist” regime.

But such statements by Iran's Ahmadinejad come as no surprise. The Iranian leader frequently pushes for Israel's destruction, saying that this sovereign state should be wiped off the map, calling it a disgraceful blot on the face of the Islamic world and proclaiming that anyone who recognized Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury.

On May 8 of last year, he said Israel is a “stinking corpse” and is on its way to total destruction. A few months later, on August 20, he referred to Israel as a “germ of corruption” that will be “removed soon.”

A year prior, on June 3, 2007, Ahmadinejad stated, “With God's help, the countdown button for the destruction of [Israel] has been pushed.”

In October of 2005, he asked “Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism? You had best know that this slogan and this goal are attainable and, surely, can be achieved.”

Mr. Speaker, his words and actions do not merely reflect his own views or those of a few powerless extremists, but, rather, Iran's supreme leader, for example, said, “This cancerous tumor of a state should be removed from the region.”

Rafsanjani, the former Iranian leader who continues to hold significant influence and who some mistakenly call a moderate, has threatened Israel with destruction by nuclear weapons, going on to say that even the use of one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything, while it will merely harm the Islamic world. Ahmadinejad's hatred for Israel, for the Jewish people, for the Great Satan, that is the United States, for freedom, for democracy and all that the United States and Israel represent, transcends rhetoric into policies and actions that threaten vital U.S. security interests and pose an existential threat to Israel.

Foremost are Iran's sponsorship of violent Islamic groups and its pursuit of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile capabilities. Responsible nations cannot accept the prospect of an emboldened nuclear Iranian regime. We must close loopholes in existing U.S. and international sanctions so as to deny the regime all remaining lifelines and compel it to abandon its destructive policies.

Likewise, we must learn history's lesson that we will not achieve peace by embracing Islamic militant groups like the Iranian proxy Hamas, or by recognizing a Palestinian Authority government that includes Hamas.

The proposed supplemental, which will be before the House in a few weeks, would provide hundreds of millions of dollars for assistance in Gaza. And this would amount to a bailout for Hamas, enabling them to divert their funds from reconstruction to the purchasing of arms.

We have tried unconditional funding to an unaccountable Palestinian leadership again and again, and it has not worked. There is no reason to expect a different outcome now.

Mr. Speaker, just today the Palestinian Authority leader Abu Mazen again refused to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. But the proposed supplemental before us would allocate \$200 million in additional direct cash transfers to the Palestinian Authority.

In short, as we craft policy to protect our Nation, we must reward those who

stand with us, compel those who threaten us to change their course, and demand accountability in exchange for our hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUNTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. ING-LIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FIRST 100 DAYS OF OBAMA PRESIDENCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, we celebrate today, shortly, I think in 2 days, we celebrate 100 days of President Obama's Presidency. His rankings are way up there, and we all respect him on his first 100 days, but I am going to talk about those 100 days because I have a little bit different viewpoint than others might. I highly respect the man but, in turn, you can view the world differently, and I certainly view the world differently than Mr. Obama and the majority party.

I am going to talk, and I hope I will be joined by some of my colleagues, a little bit about the way I look at the last 100 days and actually farther back than 100 days, the way I look at the last 6 months of what's going on in this country and where we are going and what concerns I have.

Now, I want to make it very clear that I am not doing this to get on Ms. NAPOLITANO's hit list. I am just doing this to express my opinion.

The first thing, when you start trying to look at this new administration and the direction we are taking the country, you have got to start, I think, with our foreign policy. And I think, literally, the first thing or almost first thing that the President of the United States did when he became President of the United States was to order the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay to be closed down and, of course, we are now having the debate as to what we are going to do with the prisoners that were there.

As a result of putting the spotlight on Gitmo, we put a spotlight on the argument of whether or not certain behavior is torture or not torture. And, clearly, this is a matter of opinion. And then we, as of yet, have not had official release of documents that tell us what resulted from these various procedures like waterboarding, as far as information gained by our intelligence folks.

But the argument is that this was a great thing to do, to close down Guantanamo Bay. I disagree. I actually think it was almost the perfect place for us to keep those folks because, quite frankly, I haven't seen anyone, certainly none of our European allies have stepped up yet and said that they were willing to take them. We have had a few that stepped up and their political leaders said, whoa, time out, we are not going to do that.

A fellow has got a private prison somewhere in the country said this morning he would take them, and then—I am not sure who the official was, who said, oh, no, you are not going to take them. So right now we don't have anyplace to put them.

I would volunteer the Williamson County jail, because I know that they would wish they were back at Gitmo, but I don't think they are willing to take them. So we are at a dilemma on that, and we are at a dilemma on whether or not what has happened to these folks that are in this detention facility is, in fact, torture.

I think that the general consensus in the press is that it is. But did it result in something that saved the lives of Americans, that's a good question.

Hopefully that information will be released in the very near future. I know the President and Senate requested it. And I hope that we get that full information so we, as Americans, can get a good picture of whether or not this is really a good thing that we did.

We certainly closed down something that was all over the news, it was all over the talking points of the Democratic Party. And, of course, that being the President who was elected from the Democratic Party, and as he says, he won, and he gets the opportunity to do that, and that's the first thing that he did.

Other things in foreign affairs that he has done, he has made some trips overseas to Europe, was very, very warmly received by our allies in Europe, and they cheered for him and patted him on the back.

□ 2000

But they didn't give him what he asked for. He asked for some help, some real help, in Afghanistan.

Let me say, I just came back from a meeting with the EU myself, and there are a lot of folks over there that certainly are standing in harm's way in Afghanistan. Most of those are Eastern European countries, but there are a few, like Great Britain, who certainly

stand in the gap. But the President didn't get what he was looking for in the way of assistance over there, and, quite frankly, I think the Europeans should step up for him.

I do support their participation, and not just the participation, as I told them when I was over there. The way we look at it where I come from, when you are making ham and eggs, the chicken is involved, but the pig is committed, and we are looking for some folks that are committed. That means, if necessary, they will go there without restrictions in their ability to perform, as some of our allies have done when they have gone to the battle areas that we are fighting terrorists in.

Oh, by the way, one of the things that the Obama administration has done through Mrs. NAPOLITANO is we are not supposed to call these folks "terrorists" anymore, but I have a hard time remembering what I am supposed to call them, so I am going to call them that until I can remember what the new politically correct term she invented is.

The President went to visit with the Central and South American leaders. He has opened the doors, or is attempting to open the doors, to a regime that has been a very, very evil regime since I guess I was a freshman in high school, and, believe me, that is a long time ago.

Fidel Castro, we all thought he was going to be the savior of mankind when he came to the United States in, what was it, '56 or '57, until we got to know him and realized he was nothing more than what all dictators seem to be and they are, and that is a tyrant who totally and completely persecuted any opposition that might arise in his country of Cuba. He has slaughtered innocents for 50 years, and his brother doesn't seem to be moving in any other direction but backing up Fidel.

Yet we have opened the doors now to Cuba. We are saying we are going to let tourists go down there. We are going to work with these people. Of course, we asked them if they would release the political prisoners down there, some of whom have been there forever, and President Obama thought that he heard Fidel Castro say yes, he thought we could work something out. But now they have come out and officially said they thought maybe the President misunderstood what Fidel said, so we didn't get anything out of that. But let's hope that maybe this will be good for us.

But I always have a problem that when you acknowledge tyranny and you legitimize tyranny, then how do you fight against tyranny? It is an interesting dilemma to be in as a leader.

We have got Hugo Chavez, who has been probably the biggest hater of this country since he came into power of anybody in my remembrance. I don't believe that the dictators of the Second World War that we fought against said as many bad things about the United States of America as Hugo Chavez has said.

He has written a book called "Open Veins of Latin America," which is a venomous attack on the United States blaming every woe that Central and South America has ever had on the United States of America. I think he gave an autographed copy of that book to the President of the United States when he was there, and they shook hands in agreement, not about the book, I am sure, about acceptance of the book.

From a foreign policy standpoint, I don't think we laid a good foundation there, not a foundation of being the voice for freedom in the world. But then good men of good character can disagree, and I certainly think that the President of the United States disagrees with that position, and certainly he is an American citizen and is rightfully able to do so, just like I am.

When the President, when we had visitors here from Great Britain, it was about the time we sent the bust of Winston Churchill back to England, which was supposed to be a permanent gift to this country, but somehow it got sent back. The President met the Queen. He shook her hands with both hands, and then bowed to the leader of Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah. The view of the world is just different from the heights that the President views it and from the lowly position here in Congress that we view it, at least from my standpoint.

That is enough to talk about the foreign policy. But the truth is we are trying to be open and we are trying to reach out to folks and we are asking them to let's all be friends, and hopefully we all will be.

If there is one thing that you have to look at this 100 days that the President has been President, that defines this 100 days more than any other thing, it is the new way we are going to handle an old problem that has been in the economic cycles of this country, that has been coming up for many, many years, and that is the idea of a recession and the possibility of a depression and how do you handle it.

The best guidance that some think we have ever had is the guidance that was given to us by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was elected in 1932 and served the longest of any President of the United States, which brought about the limiting amendments that we have had that limited us to two terms for President. He served many more than two terms for President, but he served from 1932 until basically 1940 when the world and the whole subject matter of the world at that time was the Great Depression.

The Great Depression, however, got overshadowed by the German invasion of Poland in 1939 and the beginning of the Second World War. So the periods as you define the Presidency of Franklin Roosevelt, you take the Great Depression, '32 to '40, and then the next phase in which the American soldier did an excellent job and the American President did an excellent job of defeating tyranny around the world.

I guess going back to a little bit of the history of the Great Depression, the interesting thing was that in 1932 the unemployment rate, and I am not good at getting figures, but it was double digits, somewhere in the 20s or 30s, something like 25 or 30 percent of the population was unemployed. In 1940, that same number was still unemployed. Yet we had gone on, we had adopted the Keynesian version of economics and we had leaped forward with the Keynesian version, and the biggest spending spree in the history of the country took place from 1932 to actually 1946.

But this administration has managed to have spent more than all of that and more than all the other Presidents combined in the first 100 days. Now, I don't want to be totally unfair, because part of that came at the tail-end of the Bush administration with the Democrat Congress, and so I don't think it is completely fair to lay all that off on President Obama. But the facts are just that the President's budget is going to create the largest single deficit a budget has ever created in the history of the Republic.

You know, one of the things that we discussed, there is a long debate, it was debated out pretty heavily in the Presidential election, was whether or not we were going to have earmarks. We still debate to this day in this Congress what is an earmark, is it good, is it bad. Everybody has got an opinion. We haven't resolved the issue. But the President said he would veto any bill that had an earmark in it, because he didn't believe in earmarks, and he is in a large crowd of people that continues to believe that way. And we have this debate on this floor, in committee, and elsewhere right now we have this debate. It goes on continuously. But the President did sign the omnibus spending bill, and he signed it with 9,000 earmarks in it. So as we look at this 100 days, we have got some promises, promises made and promises kept that we need to look at, and there is just a lot of different ways to view what is going on.

I will say this. I will tell you that the President has got as good a popularity rating as anybody that has ever held the office in the first 100 days, so I will give him absolute credit for that. He certainly knows how to be popular, and he is popular. But, you know, we had thousands of people take to the streets, I guess it was last weekend, the weekend before last, with the TEA parties, and although it was probably targeting the Congress as much as it was targeting anybody, but they were certainly not happy with the state of affairs in the United States.

We signed the stimulus bill with \$787 billion. Obama's inauguration cost the taxpayers \$49 million, which was triple the amount of money that was spent on the Bush administration's first inauguration. There is still a \$50.5 million budget shortfall on the Democratic convention in Chicago. So spending has

become something that identifies this Presidency; \$1.5 trillion is this year's budget. Now we are looking at a new budget, \$3.6 trillion. We talked about \$1 trillion before on the floor of the House; \$1 trillion is a stack of brand new \$1,000 bills somewhere between 63 and 65 miles high. That is a whole lot of money, a whole lot of money.

So as we look at this 100 days, you can look at it in different ways. I will say this: The President has certainly kept his cool. He is an excellent speaker. He dazzles our allies and he makes people feel comfortable, and that is a lot that we need in this country.

My problem that I have with President Obama most of all is that I fear the kind of overwhelming expenditure that we have to deal with from the Obama administration. We are getting so far in debt that our great-great-grandchildren are going to have problems paying this bill.

I see I am joined by one of my colleagues, KEVIN BRADY. He is one of the people that I look up to in this building because he has always got good things to say. I will yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Thank you, Mr. CARTER. Again I want to thank you for your leadership in the Republican Conference here in Washington, as well as the fact that you bring out issues that I think average Americans, middle class Americans, want to talk about these days.

To be fair, I don't know if 100 days into the administration is a very good gauge of how successful or unsuccessful they will be. It is sort of more like a PR date. It is like getting your high school graduation grade in the first grade. You know what I mean?

□ 2015

Here's the very beginning. We'll see how it goes. I guess some things that worry me are that so much of this administration has been basically designed, or the foundation is to blame President Bush for everything. And it just seems to me that this is President Obama's stimulus. It is President Obama's budget. It's President Obama's bailout. And at some point, you have to start taking responsibility for your own leadership. And I think that's important for our new President to do.

And I also take issue with the oft-stated fact, supposedly, from the White House, that President Clinton inherited a surplus and President Obama a deficit, which is only partially true. What they don't say is that President Clinton inherited a surplus from a Republican Congress. And President Obama inherited a deficit from a Democratic Congress.

I was here in 1997 on this floor, about this time of the night, when Republicans sat down with President Clinton, worked out the balanced budget agreement that led to that surplus. And Democrats voted overwhelmingly against that balanced budget agreement. So the surplus that President

Bush received didn't come from Democrats; it came from Republicans.

Admittedly, Republicans, especially led by the President, spent way too much. But I'd point out that the deficit when the Republicans left the majority in Congress they had whittled down to about \$160 billion a year; still way too high, but the compass was moving in the right direction.

Here we are 2½ years later, under Democratic control of the House and Senate, the deficit is now 10 times that much, \$1.18 trillion, the most in American history. And that's what worries our folks, Congressman CARTER, the most, you know, that we are on the biggest spending spree in American history; trillions and trillions and trillions of dollars of debt that seemingly can never be repaid; \$1 billion extra new funding an hour in the first 50 days of this new administration. And the question they have for me is, who's going to pay for all this? I mean, they realize there is no free lunch. There is no free money. Someone somewhere is going to have to pay for it. And it won't be the wealthy. It's going to be middle class families and small businesses, our children and grandchildren, who ultimately will pay for all this massive spending.

I serve as the ranking House Republican on the Joint Economic Committee, and our economists pointed out that the stimulus bill really was a spending bill, had very little to do with creating jobs, would have very little to do with the economy recovering and may, in fact, be a drag on our economy in the out-years as we attempt to pay back where interest rights rise to catch up with all the monetary policy and fiscal policy occurring in Washington today.

We also worry, our economists believe that our debt, national debt, may not just double in the next 4 years, may well triple in the next 4 years, in that inflation could go to 8 to 10 percent a year, which really eats away at people's pocketbooks, families' paychecks, really is one of the greatest, I think, damagers to our economy.

And we see this spending. We see this national debt, all of it again blamed on President Bush. And I look forward to the day when our new President says, you know, this is my administration, this is my leadership.

And I see the mistakes that are being made on proposing tax increases on professionals and small businesses, tax increase is major on our independent energy producers in America. Tax increases, utility increases on every American as a result of this cap-and-trade scheme.

We see taxes on people who want to give charitable deductions or deduct their own mortgage rates from what they owe Uncle Sam, higher taxes on capital gains and dividends, which a lot of our seniors rely upon in their retirement days as well. And it just seems to me you cannot tax, borrow and spend your way to prosperity; that we're

going to see massive tax increases, but even then, you cannot tax your way back to a balanced budget.

In fact, I think and I believe that this budget that will be rushed through Congress this week, Congressman CARTER, if it is allowed to pass, I don't know if we'll even have time to read it, just like the stimulus bill may be rushed through Congress. If it passes, we may well not see a balanced budget again in our lifetime. It sets the path so far from what a balanced budget is.

In fact, you could double the taxes on every American, every taxpaying American in our country, you still wouldn't balance the budget under the Obama budget that we're looking at here this week. So all this debt, all this spending is scary, the direction we're headed.

I'm convinced there are some issues, perhaps, that the President would like to work with Republicans on. I know that we're anxious to do that. So far it's been highly partisan in Washington. But I think there are issues that, if the President says to the Speaker and the Senate majority leader, I really do want to find consensus, rather than just jam everything through, I can tell you there are a lot of Republicans who are willing and eager to sit down with him. That's not been the case so far. As a result, I think our country is worse off for it.

And I'd yield back again to the leader of this discussion.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, the issue of bipartisanship is one that every American wants, including every American, I believe, in this House. But the facts are that you have situations where some things are just so diametrically opposed to what you stand for that there's no place you can go there.

When you're talking about bipartisanship, you've got to come in and try to move to a compromise middle position. Most of the legislation that we've seen in Congress in the first 100 days hasn't really even been vetted with the committee system. It just almost comes directly from the Speaker's Office to the floor. So we don't have any input into all that. To get bipartisan you've got to sit down and talk things out, work things out. That's why we have committees. That's why we have the smaller units that discuss these things.

You know, I was on, when I was, my first term in Congress I served on the then called Education and Workforce, now it's called Education and Labor Committee. And we had a group of African American women, and mostly women, but a few men, mostly grandmothers, but a few mothers, who came to express their desire to make sure that the voucher program that had been created before I got here for the D.C. schools was kept in place because, and they testified over and over and over how it was saving the lives of their children and grandchildren; that it was allowing them to select the school of their choice, and to put an ef-

fort forward to excel and be a superior student, because they were able to have gotten into the lottery system to get one of these vouchers for 1,700 students as an experimental program.

But I had never, I've never been up here where I saw just ordinary folks come in and, I mean, I saw a grandmother stand up there and cry: Please don't take this program away. This program is saving my grandchild's life. Please don't take it away.

And we didn't.

But, unfortunately, the administration has eliminated that program. Now, this program was just what a bunch of poor people wanted. It's just a shame we couldn't expand that program so that we could do something about the failed D.C. school system, to make sure that good, hardworking kids, no matter where they live or what their circumstances in life are, would have a place to go to have a chance to have a better education. I don't understand that. I don't understand why that would happen. But it has to do with, something to do with politics.

But when you're talking about little kids and their chance to go to a safe school and their chance to learn something, and you have a program that's giving them that chance and every one of their supervising parents and grandparents are there saying it's the greatest thing that ever happened to us, why in the world would you take that little token thing away, when you're spending trillions of dollars on other things?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. And if the gentleman would yield.

Mr. CARTER. I will yield.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I think you make an important point there because that issue wasn't decided on what was best for the children. That was just a political agenda that was being exercised. And yet you have—I'm one of these believers that we need to invest in and lift up public schools all across this country with accountability, with resources, helping them do their job.

But while we're improving the very worst of these schools, like in Washington, DC, you have to give those parents a choice, an option of getting their kids into a school, because if you're going to take, 5, 6, 7, 8 years to get a school up to standards, look, when you have little kids like we do, in kindergarten and fourth grade, my wife and I do, every year matters. You can't have them in a school that's still failing for 5 or 6 or 7 more years. And those parents who last week were told, yes, we're going to continue it, and then a day later it was yanked out from under them, you know, all they said was, all they were saying is, while you improve our schools, give us a chance to get our kids a better education while you're doing it. So trying to do it both at one time. But we've seen this a lot. Common sense, I think, principles and values, that seem to be ignored.

Last week, the Joint Economic Committee held a hearing with the Special

Inspector General over the bailout funds. And he's very direct. And, basically, Barofsky, former prosecutor, respected, a lot of credibility, he said—he made two points at the hearing, Congressman CARTER. One was that he said, despite their repeated requests to the Treasury Department that all the money from the bailout be accounted for, and then banks put in place controls so you can continue to monitor, again, Treasury Department, time and time has said no, we'll not do that. We don't want to know and hold accountable where those bailout dollars are going.

And, secondly, they had just finished this, Inspector General, Special Inspector General, just finished a review of this new, some of the new programs, including taking these bad loans off the banks' books. And they said, it is ripe for abuse, collusion, conflict of interest, money laundering. They made a series of commonsense recommendations on how to prevent that from occurring. And to date, the Treasury Department still has not agreed to those commonsense protections of our tax dollars.

And we're seeing that, whether it is in lower income people who want their kids to have a good education, whether it is taxpayers who just want to know where their bailout money went, and they want to prevent abuses before they begin, whether it is—a lot of Americans are not convinced that a government-run health care system is the way to go in America, but they already feel like it's being shut, they're being shut out and it's being rammed through.

Same with this global warming cap-and-trade scheme. Again, rushed to the floor, rushed through Congress. We know, from the AIG bonuses and that fiasco of legislation that was on the House floor, when Congress rushes these things to the floor, when there is no debate, when it's shut off, when there's a gag rule where we can't even read the stimulus bill, and the public doesn't know about it, at the end of the day, America loses.

And I think that that's one of the reasons, Congressman, that this President, for all his personal skills, for all, I think, his sincere desire to do a good job, his poll numbers, while high, are the most polarizing in four decades. The country has never been this divided over what direction we're going. He can play, I think, a more important role in leading. And I just hope that he's not, you know, manipulated or directed by those around him; that he's able to step forward, because I think there is an opportunity to work together. But so far, the first 100 days have been very, very disappointing from that regard.

And I would yield back.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, and I thank the gentleman for his comments. And let me say, so that everybody understands where I come from, when this all started, President Bush

was President of the United States. And we had a Treasury Secretary come running in here and say, oh Lord, oh Lord, oh Lord, the sky is falling. I need you to give me three-quarters of a trillion dollars, roughly, and I need it now. Don't ask any questions. Trust me.

Well, when that all happened, I thought to myself, now, the folks in Round Rock and Georgetown, Texas, are pretty decent, hardworking, honest people. But I don't believe, if a guy came running into their place of business in a big hurry and said, the sky is falling, the sky is falling, the world's going to hell, I just gotta have a couple hundred bucks. Give it to me. I'll pay you back. Trust me. I think they'd say, whoa, wait a minute. What do you need this \$200 for in such a big hurry?

□ 2030

At least they'd say that: What are you going to do with it if I loan it to you, and I'm not going to get it back? That might be their best friend to whom they might be able to do that; but I believe any normal-thinking American would ask that kind of question.

We were talking about three-quarters of \$1 trillion that he was asking for, and all he was saying was: Trust me. It's too complicated for you to understand. Trust me. So I voted against it because, quite frankly, I think that the man on the street manages his money with more commonsense than the Congress does in managing that money.

Now I hear this story from you, and you would know because you're on the Ways and Means Committee, which looks into these things. It shocks me to think that we are being told very clearly that the use of this money could be used for money laundering—that word jumps off the page—and they're not even doing it? Something is wrong. There's something wrong.

I've got friends who have arrived. My friend PHIL GINGREY has arrived here from the great State of Georgia. He was the first one here, so let's let him talk a little bit about the first 100 days.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the gentleman from Texas for yielding and for giving me the opportunity to join with him on the floor tonight as we talk to our colleagues about our impression of the first 100 days.

I was actually on "Fox News Sunday," just yesterday, basically talking about the same thing, and my comment then was: well, you know, what bothers me more than the first 100 days and the performance of the President is the fact that yesterday was National Debt Day. It was the day on which the Federal Government had spent every bit of the money that we've taken in. All of the revenue has been spent on expenses, on discretionary spending and on mandatory spending, and now, for the rest of the year, it's borrowed money. We're going to be spending borrowed money for the rest of the year.

The striking—shocking almost—thing about that, Mr. Speaker, is that this is occurring 3½ months earlier this year, the gentleman from Texas, than it did last year. So, yes, there's no way that I could stand before my colleagues and say that I would give the President a good grade on this.

My worthy opponent in the majority yesterday, as we always have a Republican and a Democrat on these television shows, said: Well, you know, the President ought to be scored on a curve. I guess he meant compared to the last President—President Bush and the previous administration. In the opinion of this gentleman, the President should get an A on the curve. Now, he's a Harvard-educated lawyer, an accountant, and I think he, maybe, even has a Ph.D. In the Ivy League, I don't think they give anything, Mr. Speaker, but A's and B's. I went to Georgia Tech, and there is no curve. There is no grade inflation at Georgia Tech. I hope my friends at Georgia Tech won't get on to me about this. I'm a Georgia Tech graduate, and I speak only for myself, but I would give him at best a C-minus.

One of the things that bothers me the most is this recent release, this declassification and release of these memos that were written by attorneys in the previous Justice Department in regard to enhanced interrogation to try to make sure that anything we did as a country was done legally and within the bounds of the law and within the bounds of our great Constitution. I'm sure they struggled—it was a difficult thing to do—and in good conscience said to the President: This is what you can do. This is what you cannot do. We're in a desperate situation. We have just been attacked. Three thousand or more people were killed when the Twin Towers came crashing down after the Islamic extremists—the terrorists, global terrorists—I guess we call that overseas contingency operations now.

Mr. CARTER. That's the word. That's the word.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I guess we can no longer talk about terrorism.

We were in a desperate situation, Mr. Speaker, and to think that the President—I read this in the paper about how he spent 5½ hours with his top-level people over in the West Wing, debating pro and con whether or not to release these memos—to declassify them and to embarrass, I guess, the previous administration and our country to the world. After 5½ hours of debate, pro and con, the President made a decision to release those memos, and then of course said: But now, you know, we need to move forward. I'm a leader—and I hope and pray that he is—who wants to look to the future.

We've got a lot of problems. This economy is terrible. With everything we've done, we're just right back to where we were, you know, as far as the Dow goes and as far as continuing to lose jobs. So we need to move forward and not focus on the past. We're not

going to be prosecuting these people because what they did they did in good faith. Then, what, 6 days later, all of a sudden, he said: Well, maybe I'm not so sure about that.

Mr. Speaker, this is dangerous stuff, and I think the President really needs to rethink this. This business of gotcha and saying that, you know, everything is the fault of the previous administration, I think, has got to stop. If he wants to get a good score on his first 100 days, well then, let's start thinking about the next 100 days. I'm ready to give him a good score if he—the President, Mr. President, the 44th President of the United States—doesn't try to take over our health care system and doesn't bring us towards socialized medicine and a single-payer system, if he doesn't tax the middle class to death with this carbon trade scheme, regime, European Union idea, that, I think, is crazy in these economic times. If he wants a decent score in the next 100 days—and I'll yield back to my colleague—then hopefully he will and this Congress will and this majority will reject these ideas as we move forward.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, I thank my friend from Georgia. That's exactly what I was talking earlier about. It's easy to talk about bipartisanship, but when you just really believe the policy is wrong, that it's the wrong policy at the wrong time and for the wrong purpose, how can you work in a bipartisan manner on something like this cap-and-tax system that's being proposed by the majority?

I mean, I'm going to tell you: unless I just don't understand it—and I'm not saying there's not a chance I might not understand it—but it seems to me that if your purpose is to keep people from putting carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and you've got a plant over here that's pouring out carbon dioxide and you've got a plant over here that's clean and that's saving carbon dioxide and planting 1,000 trees, then you say, well, this guy can loan to this guy some of his cleanness, and this guy will be in compliance, but, hey, he's still putting the stuff in the air. So how does that do anything?

Oh, by the way, there's a tax that goes with this that's estimated to raise about \$1.5 trillion for the United States, a brand-new tax. Well, that's okay. That tax is going to be on the big oil companies and on the utility companies and all of those people. That's okay. Who cares about them. Do you think those people pay that tax? Go down and get out last month's utility bill. Open it up, and see whose name is on it. Then see what they tell you you've got to pay, and look at the bottom line, and see what it is, and write it down someplace because it's going up, and it's going up by the amount of that tax if they pass this bill. So it is a new way to tax Americans. Believe me, that bill is not going to say, oops, you're middle class, so we're not going to put it on your bill. It's not going to

say that. Oops, you're poor, so we're not going to put it on your bill. It's only going to go on the rich people's bills. It's not going to say that. It's going to be on everybody's utility bill and on everybody's gasoline bill and on everybody's fuel bill. It's all going up by the amount of that tax, and you, the American people, are going to pay this.

We—my friend Mr. WESTMORELAND and my friend Mrs. BACHMANN—we're all going to pay this.

I'd better recognize Mrs. BACHMANN. She's one of the bright lights of this conference. We're glad to have her with us.

Mrs. BACHMANN, I will yield to you such amount of time you wish to consume.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Judge, I thank you, and I thank you for holding this Special Order hour this evening on the first 100 days of the Obama administration.

This has been a great leap that we've seen. We have different historical shifts that occur in our Nation's history. This one has to be at least, not a shift but, I think, more a great leap that we've seen. To me, the question shouldn't be as much How is President Obama doing? as much as it should be How are the people doing? How are the American people doing after these first 100 days?

We were made great promises of hope, great promises of change. Yet I was listening over the weekend to the President's man, Larry Summers, and to what he was saying. He was saying it may be next year, 2010, before we see any shift in this economic climate. We were led to believe that we would see great change, immediate change, and all we're seeing is a prolonged effort, which is just what happened in the 1930s with FDR.

The more the government spent, the more the government regulated, the more the government put up tariff barriers—trade barriers—and the more government intervened, the longer the recession occurred. As a matter of fact, the recession that FDR had to deal with wasn't as bad as the recession Coolidge had to deal with in the early twenties. Yet, from history, the prescription that Coolidge put on that is lower taxes, a lower regulatory burden, and we saw the roaring twenties where we saw markets and growth in the economy like we had never seen before in the history of the country. FDR applied just the opposite formula—the Smoot-Hawley Act, which was a tremendous burden on tariff restrictions, and then, of course, trade barriers and the regulatory burden and tax barriers. That's what we saw happen under FDR. That took a recession and blew it into a full-scale depression. The American people suffered for almost 10 years under that kind of thinking.

Here we are now, boosting forward to the year 2009—the beginning of hope and change. So, again, the question is: How are the people doing?

Credit is tight. Banks aren't lending the way people had hoped they would

lend. Job losses are going into the double digits. We have college and we have job losses approaching 20 percent in their districts. Minnesota, the State that I represent, is a fairly diverse State economically. We tend to have low unemployment. In areas of my district, I have unemployment of 10 percent. That may not seem like a lot, but that's a lot in the State of Minnesota.

I wrote down just a couple of things, Mr. CARTER, that we've seen just in the time that President Obama has been in office. He said quite often after he came into office that he inherited this mess. Now, one thing that we remember is that President Obama actually voted for all of these measures that got us into this mess. He voted for the bailout. He voted for all of these expenditures whether it was for Freddie and Fanny or Bear Stearns. He was voting for all of these measures all throughout 2008, but just since the time of his election in November of 2008 to the present day, he has increased the burden, and he has increased spending by 75 percent on his watch. So it's one thing to say you've inherited a mess. It's another thing to increase that mess by 75 percent. How has he done it?

Well, he passed an over-\$1 trillion stimulus measure that he was only too happy to sign. He also proposed that we spend \$75 billion in direct foreclosure money. Then he proposed \$200 billion to banks for more mortgage bailout money. Hey, I thought that's what that \$700 billion was supposed to go for. That wasn't enough. He proposed and passed another \$200 billion.

Then we saw our Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, go over to Europe and before the G-20 say that we needed to get behind another \$1 trillion of spending for the International Monetary Fund—\$1 trillion of spending—and also have an international financial regulator so perhaps, for the first time in the history of our country, the U.S. would subsume our economic system under an international regulator. This is unheard of. Then we also heard talk about global currency called “special drawing down rights” on the International Monetary Fund. The Treasury Secretary assured me, personally, in the Financial Services Committee that he would categorically renounce taking the United States off of the dollar and moving us toward international global currency. Within 24 hours, the Treasury Secretary went 180 degrees different and said he would be open to an international global currency.

Then we saw the firing of the president of General Motors, and we saw the changing of the board of directors of General Motors. We saw this administration tell Chrysler they had to get married to another company, Fiat, and they had to have this all happen before June.

□ 2045

We saw yesterday again, as Dr. GINGREY said, national debt day, and again, what this means for the people

back home, is that the United States, as of Sunday, as of April 26, we spent it all. We've spent everything that we planned to bring in. It's like you made out your household budget for the year for a hundred thousand dollars, and you have already spent it by this point. So at this point, now it's the credit card. And it's not a credit card that you and I are paying; it's a credit card that our kids are going to be paying. That's why I am concerned.

And that's why I am so glad you brought this up about this first 100 days with President Obama, because I think it has more to say, Judge CARTER, about what the kids under 30 years of age will have to live with than even more what you and I will have to live with, because this is a pretty big spending spree that we've seen happen in this last 30 days, one so big we can't possibly bail ourselves out of it even this year.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time for a couple of other facts.

It's so nice to have people that are on Financial Services and Ways and Means come in here because you get to see so much more of this stuff than we do. And we're supposed to be seeing it in Appropriations, but when it comes to spending, they sort of bypass Appropriations most of the time when it comes to spending.

The 10 days before President Obama was inaugurated, he said there were two different economic scenarios that were coming down the pike, and one was good and one was bad. The good one was the passing of the stimulus bill. The bad one was doing nothing. He said that if we did not pass the stimulus bill, that unemployment rate would go above 8 percent; but if we passed the stimulus bill, we wouldn't see 8 percent unemployment at any time until 2014.

Mrs. BACHMANN. What happened, Judge?

Mr. CARTER. Today, unemployment is 8.5 percent going on 9.

And in addition to the spending we're spending, the Fed is printing trillions of dollars into the economy.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I guess, according to that thinking, then, they ought to spend more money. Do you think that's what the prescription should be for the American people?

Mr. CARTER. That's what they're trying to do.

But the reality is our spending is not working, and now the worry we have to be worried about is the fact that we may be looking at inflation, maybe 10 percent a year. Now, young people who have lived through the last—grown up since the 1990s, which would fit a great deal of the young people that are out there today, they really don't know what we're talking about when we say “runaway inflation.” They really don't get it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. They didn't live through the Jimmy Carter years.

Mr. CARTER. They didn't live through the Jimmy Carter times.

But when you see your paycheck, you get a paycheck and you realize that your dollar gets—in a year gets worth 10 percent less, and the next year 10 percent less again, and just like interest compounds, so does inflation.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Pretty soon your money is worth half.

Mr. CARTER. So if it would have cost you \$1 to buy this clip when you first started, it will end up costing you \$2 to buy that clip—it's the same clip—because inflation is running away.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And your dollar is worth half of what you thought it was worth.

Mr. CARTER. President Obama promised the people at Caterpillar that if the stimulus bill passed, they would start hiring soon. The reality is they started laying off again because it wasn't the solution to the problem.

I have got another friend that's here to join us, Mr. WESTMORELAND from the great State of Georgia, and I am going to yield him so much time as he may wish to consume.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you to the gentleman from Texas for yielding and for having this hour.

I think if I was going to grade President Obama on the first 100 days, that I would have to give him an "A" in public perception.

Mr. CARTER. Amen.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I think he is a great orator. I think he does a great job of reading a speech, and he has—his message, and he's still been on the campaign trail, has made the public's perception think that we are getting somewhere. But the gentleman from Texas makes an excellent point. I thought he said it would not rise above 7.5 percent.

I would also have to give him an "A" on blame shifting. And the gentleman from Texas mentioned that, too, that this seems to be all of our problems—all of our problems seem to be from the prior administration and the prior Congresses when the Republicans were in the majority.

Now, I am here to confess that I was only here one term while we were—the Republicans were in the majority and we spent too much money. And we did. And we were at fault. And the American people said, "No, we're going to stop this train. We're going to make a change." And Republicans, we got what we deserved, but the American people did not get what they deserved.

In this last election, they were promised change, and we have had quite a bit of change. And Judge, the gentleman from Texas, I know you have talked about quite a bit of that, but we need to go forward.

And I have learned something in the past 3 or 4 months that bipartisanship means doing what the Democratic leadership in this House wants you to do. It doesn't mean getting different opinions or different proposals put into the legislation. In fact, I would have to say that this Congress has been one of the most closed Congresses in the history

of this country, as far as bipartisanship.

So, the public perception is an "A." He has sold his agenda in a way that the public has bought it, and one of those parts has been the bipartisanship. But the people that can create the real bipartisanship in the atmosphere of working together is Speaker PELOSI and Leader REID. And the gentleman from Texas knows we have not seen that. We have, in fact, been closed out of the process. So that's not a reality.

The reality is, as my colleague from Georgia mentioned, yesterday was debt day. After yesterday, we go forward spending our children and our grandchildren's money. We're putting everything we're doing on a credit card. I sat here for 2 years in this Congress and I listened to the minority, the Democrats then, complain about deficit spending, about going into debt, on and on and on. Yet today, that seems to be okay. That seems to be the way of this country: We're just going to put it on a credit card. If we don't have enough credit, then we will print the money.

But I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for doing this and for bringing about a report card, I guess, on what the first 100 days has been about in this administration. I hope the next 100 days will be better. I wish this President great success. I wish this country great success.

But I believe in order to achieve that success, we're going to have to get away from the blame shifting. We're going to have to get away from the public perception. We're going to have to get away from selling the snake oil that's sold here, and we're going to have to get down to working together, listening to ideas, and being able to come together and give every Member of this body, the people's House, an opportunity to put forth their ideas into making this a better country that we live in.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding that time and for his willingness to come down and to bring this forth to the American people.

Mr. CARTER. I thank you. Those were wonderful comments.

You know, when you were talking about bipartisanship, I wanted to point out to you that you had it exactly right. It seems that bipartisanship means "do what we say." You know, the worst demonstration of wanting to be bipartisan occurred in February when it was announced that the 2010 census would be moved out of the Department of Commerce and into the White House to politicize the accounting of the American public.

Now, why would I worry about that? Well, because we, Members of Congress, are the branch of this government that is represented by a number of people. We have a number of people that we represent. And we divide the population of this country by a number that is expected to be somewhere around

800,000–850,000 people, I understand it, after the next census. And then that decides how many congressmen and -women we get from each State.

This has always been done by independent people as nonpartisan as possible because the count matters. And so say you're moving it out of the department that it has been in and into the White House, there is nothing bipartisan about that. Absolutely nothing. The center of the universe of one party is the White House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. PERLMUTTER (during the Special Order of Mr. CARTER) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-87) on the resolution (H. Res. 365) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE WORK OF THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert supplementary materials on the topic of my Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the 9th Congressional District from California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as a local and regional activist. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understand, all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to citizens of the congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to